

C1870

1912 Dates J-BK

(1813-1898) Sir Henry Bessemer

English inventor. Born at Charlton.

Known as the originator of the "Bessemer process" of steel making. When a mere boy he turned his attention to mechanical inventions. In 1856 he announced his discovery that pig iron in the molten form, through which a draft of air was drawn, could be converted into malleable iron. This process was at

once put into practical use, and has since undergone no radical improvements.

Bessemer was awarded the TELFORD MEDAL in 1859. Was made president of the IRON and STEEL Institute of Great Britain in 1871. He was knighted in 1879.